

Gina Mouser

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Sent: Monday, June 02, 2008 8:32 AM
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Subject: Federal Update

Absolutely no activity on reauthorization of ESEA/NCLB (or WIA if you're following workforce) is occurring. With the illness facing Senate Education and Labor Chairman Ted Kennedy, the fate of no action this session may well be sealed. Meanwhile, as we've noted, the Bush Administration is proceeding with its own rule changes. Please make sure our federal programs and compliance folk follow this closely. June 23rd is THE CUT-OFF date for any comments on issues such as uniform graduation rate. The Federal Register url with US-Ed's notice is

<http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2008-2/042308a.html>

Below are excerpts from last week's AASA update I received on Saturday. The Medicaid moratorium extension looks promising and would be welcome, given our state budget situation.

1. Education-Friendly Budget Goes to House Thursday

Action on the final stage of the Fiscal Year '09 budget appears headed for final approval in the House this coming week. As it stands, the spending blueprint, which sets the limits for appropriation spending for each 'function' of the government, allots \$8.4 billion more than the President's proposal for education and training programs. Senate approval is expected soon after the House vote. The budget had been set aside while Congress dealt with Farm Bill technicalities. Please urge your House member to vote yes on the budget resolution.

2. Medicaid's Fate Tied to War Spending

The amendment that would ensure the continuity of the Medicaid reimbursement program is included in both the House and Senate Iraq Supplemental spending bills. However, the House failed to approve the war funds, while the Senate version does contain them.

Another bone of contention is the portion of the bill that would give full G.I. education benefits to Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. The President is opposed to the benefit, which he believes will cause armed services personnel to seek college instead of reenlistment. The House G.I. benefit contains a funding source; the Senate's benefit does not.

As a result, the bill is bouncing back and forth between the two chambers. At present the measure is awaiting its next move in the House.

3. School Renovation and Repair Bill Moves to House Floor

The House is poised to take action Wednesday on legislation that would allow up to \$6.4 billion to be spent (the Senate must also act) via grants to states and local districts for the modernization, renovation, or repair of public kindergarten, elementary, or secondary schools to make them safe, healthy, high-performing, and technologically up-to-date. Full information on the bill, HR 3021, can be found on the House Education & Labor Committee site at <http://edlabor.house.gov/issues/schoolfacilitiesact.shtml>